



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

A Short History of English Agriculture. By W. H. R. CURTLER. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1909. 8vo, pp. viii+371. 6s. 6d. net.

The Disappearance of the Small Landowner. By A. H. JOHNSON. (Ford Lectures for 1909.) Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1909. 8vo, pp. 164. 5s.

Agriculture is doubtless to receive all of the attention which it deserves during the coming generation. A more or less intelligent interest is now being displayed by many people in all that pertains to farming. Economic, political, social, religious, and educational problems are being studied. Change and improvement is demanded in all directions. Unless extreme care is exercised and great intelligence brought to bear, many serious mistakes will doubtless follow. In order to avoid these as much as possible and with the knowledge that similar problems have confronted other people at other times in other countries, it is worth while to study these experiences with great care.

At this time we have before us the fact that tenancy is constantly and very rapidly increasing in this country; that whenever the government throws a few acres of choice land open for settlement thousands apply and almost fight for a place; that the values of farm lands are rapidly reaching very high levels; and that the prices of farm products are moving rapidly in the same direction with little reason to believe that they will again be materially decreased. Tariff, tax, and other problems related to agriculture are also up for consideration. Other countries have passed through experiences with many points in common with our present situation. Any well-prepared study of these experiences of others—aside from their purely historical value—should be of great assistance to us all at this time.

No country could be studied to better advantage, when we are considering the ups and downs of agriculture, than England. The two books here reviewed are the best of which I have any knowledge in their respective fields. The writer of the *Short History of English Agriculture* gives as his reason for entering the field the fact that notwithstanding agriculture is an "important industry, still the greatest in England, there is no history covering the whole period," and says that "it is to remedy this defect that this book is offered." This statement might easily be misleading, for Mr. Curtler devotes only about twenty-two pages to the twelve hundred years after the appearance of the Romans. And by the time we reach p. 24 we read: "In the thirteenth century the manorial system may be said to have been at its zenith." It is clear, then, that this history does not really "remedy the defect," so far as the first twelve centuries are concerned. And yet there is sufficient material available to make possible a very satisfactory history of the economic activities (hunting, fishing, pastoral, and agricultural) of the Iberians, Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, Normans, and others in these Islands.

The remaining chapters of the volume—which means practically the entire

study—are very well written; the material is well organized; the references have been carefully selected and the parts are well balanced. Prothero's *Pioneers and Progress of English Farming* is a quarter of a century old; does not cover the early period, and lacks many of the good features of Curtler's treatment. There are many separate volumes which treat of special questions for the entire period or all questions for a special period, but none are complete. The work being reviewed makes extensive use of these; e.g., parts of Ashley, Gibbins, and Cunningham are extensively quoted; Seebohm, Vinogradoff, Paige, Maitland, Nasse, Gomme, Andrews, Davenport, and others, as well as early documents, are used on the period of the manors; Garnier, Slater, Hasbach, and others on the problems of the agricultural laborer and the peasant classes have been used. Indeed, the footnotes show that no stone was left unturned in the effort to produce the best results. The text is divided into twenty-six chapters showing keen analysis of the distinctive characteristics of the important problems and periods. I believe the book to be the most comprehensive study of the evolution of that important industry from 1300 to 1908 which has yet been written.

Johnson's *The Disappearance of the Small Landowner* is a series of eight lectures (the Ford Lectures), limited carefully to the special subject being considered. Aside from the introductory lecture, the author, in four well-written chapters, carefully reviews the movement during the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, inclusive. In each case the facts are given showing the decline of small land-ownership and the political, social, and other agricultural and industrial changes accompanying, together with the economic and other causes which were at work. This is preceded by a lecture on the great Plague and its results. In the concluding lecture the author compares the position of the English farmer with the small owners in France, Belgium, and Germany.

One important position taken by Mr. Johnson is that the influence of the English law of primogeniture and entails has been much exaggerated. He maintains that custom and economic forces have been more potent factors than legislation. The volume is a very valuable contribution to our literature on that subject for the important period covered.

JOHN LEE COULTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Women in Industry: A Study in Economic History. By EDITH ABBOTT. With an Introductory Note by S. P. BRECKINRIDGE. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1910. Pp. xxii+409. \$2.00.

It is but natural that the subject of *Women in Industry* should have proved an attractive one to women engaged in the study of economic problems. Indeed it seems surprising that such a study should not have been made before, considering the interest and the importance of the subject. But, except for Professor Lucy Salmon's volume on the special topic of *Domestic Service*, no thorough account of woman's industrial career in this country has been written. The volume now presented affords therefore for the first time an adequate historical background by which to measure and judge modern practical problems. The struggle of women today for a larger share of economic activity is often